Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 13622 262218Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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R 262144Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0694
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T PARIS 13622

MOSCOW ALSO FOR MR. YARMOLINSKI AND AMBASSADOR LEONARD

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1
TAGS: UR, FR, PARM
SUBJECT: NO GISCARD MEETING WITH BREZHNEV FORESEEN
FOR 1978

REF: PARIS 12667

1. QUAI DIRECTOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ANDREANI TOLD EMBOFF
AT LUNCHEON BY CHARGE THAT GISCARD HAD NO REPEAT NO
PLANS TO MAKE A VISIT TO MOSCOW DURING 1978 -- EVEN
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PAGE 02 PARIS 13622 262218Z

THOUGH RECENT FRENCH-SOVIET PRACTICE WOULD SEEM TO CALL
FOR A FRENCH RETURN VISIT WITHIN A YEAR OR SO AFTER
BREZHNEV'S APPEARANCE HERE IN THE SUMMER OF 1977.

2. ASKED WHY, ANDREANI SAID BLUNTLY THAT THE SOVIETS
WERE "RATHER MIFFED" WITH THE FRENCH THESE DAYS. IN THE
FIRST INSTANCE, ANDREANI SAID (USING SUBSTANTIALLY

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

STRONGER LANGUAGE THAN HAD TAITTINGER (REFTELL)), SOVIETS WERE "FURIOUS" OVER THE CONTENTS OF THE FRENCH DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL. OBVIOUSLY THEY HAD TO PAY LIP SERVICE TO WELCOMING THIS NEW FRENCH INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT, WHICH THE SOVIETS HAD WORKED SO HARD OVER THE YEARS TO TRY TO STIMULATE. HOWEVER, ANDREANI SAID, MOSCOW HAD NO INTENTION OF REPLACING THE CCD WITH A NEW INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN WHICH THE SOVIET ROLE MIGHT BE DIMINISHED. MOREOVER, THEY LIKE NEITHER THE FRENCH PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE AGENCY, NOR THE PROPOSED TAX ON EXCESSIVE ARMS WHICH MOSCOW SEES AS A POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT, VIS-A-VIS THE THIRD WORLD. ACCORDING TO ANDREANI, THE USSR IS MOST DISTURBED, HOWEVER, BY THE THOUGHT THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSALS MIGHT ROCK THE MBFR BOAT BY CREATING A PARALLEL CONFERENCE WHICH COULD IMPEDE ITS WORK. AS ANDREANI PUT IT, THE SOVIETS ARE QUITE SATISFIED THAT BY SIMPLE DOING NOTHING THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING THE WEST TO MAKE A SERIES OF IMPORTANT MBFR CONCESSIONS. THE SOVIETS EXPECT THE WEST TO CONTINUE DOING SO AND MIGHT WELL, ONE DAY, ACCEPT WHAT THEY WILL SEE AS VERY FAVORABLE TERMS. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THE FRENCH DISARMAMENT PLAN WAS PARTLY INSPIRED BY WHAT ANDREANI CALLED THE GENUINE FRENCH FEAR OF JUST SUCH AN MBFR AGREEMENT. MOSCOW IS THEREFORE IRRITATED BY THIS FRENCH INITIATIVE.

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3. IN ADDITION TO MBFR, ANDREANI SAYS THAT THE SOVIETS NOW ALSO PERCIEVE MORE CLEARLY THE EXTENT TO WHICH GISCARD IS PREPARED TO "CROSS THEIR DESIGNS" IN AFRICA AND TO CONFRONT FORCES THERE WHICH THE SOVIETS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SUPPORT.

4. MOREOVER, CONTINUING INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE SOVIET SHOOTING DOWN OF THE ROK AIRLINER -- WHICH ANDREANI SAID SHOULD PROMPT THE US, AS THE MANFACTURER OF THE AIRPLANE, TO CALL FOR AN ONSITE INVESTIGATION UNDER THE ICAO AGREEMENTS TO WHICH THE USSR IS A SIGNATORY -- AS WELL AS THE CONTINUING, HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED PLETHORA OF SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE FRANCO-SOVIET ATMOSPHERE.

5. IN SUM, WHILE FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS CERTAINLY REMAIN GOOD, THEY ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY SO AT THIS MOMENT TO LEAD GISCARD TO SEEK AN EARLY SUMMIT MEETING WITH BREZHNEV IN MOSCOW THIS YEAR.
HARTMAN

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